



27 February 2019

Written Testimony in Opposition to Proposed Legislation SB 738

As a resident in the Town of Avon, I can tell you that I moved to this town specifically for my children to attend Avon Public Schools. As the Board of Education Chairwoman in Avon, I can tell you that the one statement I hear repeatedly from constituents is also, "I moved here for the schools." We have an excellent school system, with some of the best-standardized test scores in the State of Connecticut and 97% of our students graduating to attend colleges and universities. We have built this school district to meet the needs of our students. We fund our school system and our town government in a responsible fashion, have well-qualified, well-paid employees, and an AAA bond rating. As a local Board of Education, we work together in a non-partisan manner, focusing on the best interests of our local stakeholders.

Why would we want to dismantle our entire town for alleged "efficiencies" that are not adequately defined? A mere 2% of our schools' funding comes from the State of Connecticut to operate our schools, even while the State repeatedly forces unnecessary and unfunded mandates upon us: what possible financial benefit could there be to our town in regionalizing with others, simply based upon arbitrary boundaries? While I support regulations that would be complement of our efforts to work voluntarily with other districts in our region to maximize opportunities for our students through sharing of resources, thwarting our local control of local resources is not the answer.

Please reject this bill, which would undoubtedly have a negative impact on our state's education system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra O'Sie Chute".

Debra Chute, Avon Board of Education Chair  
27 Parkview Drive  
Avon, CT 05001

**Avon Board of Education**  
34 Simsbury Road, Avon, CT 06001  
860-404-4700